THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 3, 1793.

Thoughts on the Caufes of the prefent Failures.

THE events of the prefent times feem calculated to fhew the weaknefs of human forefight. More fortunate than other nations, it has been our lot to regard the extraordinary changes that have taken place on the Continent rather as occurrences that amufed our curiofity, than as fubjects in which we were deeply interefted. Recent circumftances have brought the bufinefs home to ourfelves. No fooner have we interfered in foreign diffentions than we begin to partake of their unhappy effects; our very profperity becomes our misfortune, for in proportion as our concerns are more widely extended, we are more vulnerable than any other nation. The ruin is already begun. The commercial world fhakes to its centre—Is it yet poffible to abate the fhock or reftore its equipoife?

It cannot furely be forgotten with what felf-complacency we have for fome time paft dwelt upon the fplendid pictures of national felicity which have been fo induftrioufly held up before us. Alas! we little thought the fcene was fo quickly to change, and that the voice of exultation was only a prelude to the deep requiem of national ruin. The cup of profperity, like that of Tantalus, was it feems, filled too high, and is now emptying itfelf even to the very dregs.

That our profperity was fallacious is now too apparent, but whether it was neceffarily and unavoidably fo, remains yet to be decided. Thofe who have attributed it to the talents and virtues of a fingle man, would do well to confider whether he

who reared the building, would not have known of what materials it was composed, and have sheltered it from those rude blasts and hostile shocks which it was ill able to bear—Slight as was the superstructure, the foundation was strong, and with proper precautions there is little doubt but the whole might yet have courted the applause of our countrymen, and been the admiration of foreign nations. An extensive manufacture of almost every article of human accommodation; an unlimited command of markets; an unembarrassed intercourse with all our foreign possessions, were the real and substantial advantages we enjoyed. Public and individual prosperity gave rise to public and individual confidence. Money diminished in its value. The legal rate of interest could in few instances be obtained. Paper was preferable to gold; and the presumption of responsibility was itself a capital.

In accounting for the unfortunate reverse which we now experience, it is not difficult, in the first place, to perceive that our present misfortunes originate from certain pre-disposing causes in our commercial situation, operated upon by certain external events. The commerce of the country, conducted as it has been for many years past, might have been conducted for many years to come. On the other hand, had the trade of the country been confined to a less compass, or the sign of credit been more substantial than paper, we might possibly have taken a part in the dissentions of the Continent without its producing such unhappy consequences to ourselves. To the concurrence of these circumstances we are to attribute the evils we now feel. The materials that composed our prosperity, though undoubtedly of a very precarious and inflammable nature, had long existed, and might with due care have been preserved to an indefinite period, but no sooner did we kindle the torch of war, than its first spark dissipated them in air.

Public misfortunes are sometimes traced to their causes with difficulty; but in the present instance their origin is too apparent to be over-looked by the most incurious observer. An effect extending as generally as the British empire must have as general a cause. Private misconduct may have increased, but has not occasioned the evil. A nearer attention to particular facts will not only evince the truth of the foregoing observations, but will enable us to trace step by step, the progress of the present calamity.

Ever since the acknowledgment of the independence of America, which was dreaded long before it took place, as an event that was to be the ruin of the commerce and manufactures

factures of Great Britain; that commerce, and those manufactures, have been gradually and steadily increasing. A trade has been opened with America herself, now she is free, which, whilst she remained subjected to us we should probably never have enjoyed. The productions of our West Indian possessions have been conveyed to this country with a regularity, interrupted only by the partial disadvantages of unfavourable seasons, or the inevitable dangers of navigation. The trade to Africa has been carried on for a few years past, with an avidity naturally arising in the minds of mercantile men, from the apprehensions that it would not long be suffered to continue; and with advantages resulting from the very restrictions which they contended would be its destruction. The manufactures of this country have in the mean time found a market directly or indirectly in almost every part of the world. The superior excellence of the articles, and the extent of the sale, have operated with an action and re-action that have given the British manufacturer a decided advantage over every competitor.

The medium by which this extensive trade has been conducted is paper credit; a medium, which alone is equal to the emergencies of so quick and so remote an intercourse. The simple barter of commodities is the first stage of commercial dealing. The interchange of mercantile articles for a sign of value generally allowed and understood, as specie, is the second. But that which has facilitated the intercourse between remote parts, and given life and energy to trade, is the substitution of paper credit to the actual and substantial delivery of money or commodities. Were trade restricted to the latter, the necessary articles of return might not always be at hand, or if ready, might not suit the purposes of the dealers. Were it bounded by the actual quantity of circulating specie, it must be confined to very narrow limits indeed. But a bill of exchange is a mode of payment of all other the most applicable to the purposes of commerce, and as the extent of credit must generally keep pace with the extent of trade, it is a medium of intercourse which may be presumed to be always equal to the object which it is intended to answer.

For some time past, and particularly of late years, the trade of this country has been mostly conducted through this channel. If a British cargo be sold in foreign parts, the amount is generally returned in bills on London. If a foreign cargo be sent to Great Britain, bills are drawn on London for the amount. If an African merchant dispose of his slaves in the

Weſt Indies, the ſame mode of payment is adopted. In ſhort ſcarcely a tranſaction now takes place in the mercantile world but it produces a bill of exchange; and theſe bills are drawn payable at various dates, according to the nature of the trade, or the poſitive ſtipulation of the parties, frequently at two or three months; not ſeldom at ſix, nine, or twelve months; and in the African trade, bills are often drawn, payable at the end of one, two, and even three years.

Let us for a moment conſider the principle on which this extenſion of credit is founded. A cargo of goods is ſent to be diſpoſed of at a foreign market; the price is agreed upon, and the only queſtion that remains is, as to the time and mode of payment. The purchaſer obſerves, that before payment be made, he ought to have time allowed him to convert the whole, or at leaſt a conſiderable part of the goods into money; and that without this indulgence, his immediate capital will not allow him to purchaſe ſo large an amount. The ſeller, though deſirous that the buyer ſhould take his cargo, objects that he cannot either remain himſelf, or detain his ſhip and crew at a conſiderable expence, till the time the purchaſer propoſes to pay. In this difficulty a method is deviſed which perfectly reconciles the views of each of the parties. The purchaſer, calculating at what time he may reaſonably expect the return from the re-ſale of his purchaſe, offers to the ſeller an order upon ſome creditable perſon reſiding at the place to which the ſeller is next bound, or at that of his uſual dwelling, payable when he ſuppoſes he may have received ſufficient from the goods in queſtion, to replace in the hands of the perſon drawn upon, the amount of the bill. Thus the Weſt Indian planter, whoſe bills for ſlaves purchaſed by him are at the longeſt date in uſe, preſumes, that before he ought to be called upon for payment, the labour of thoſe ſlaves either in the whole or in part, ſhould be brought to market. The ſeller ſeeing the neceſſity of the caſe, agrees to the propoſition, and bills are drawn for the amount accordingly.

But, although the ſeller thus conſents to poſtpone the payment until a certain period, it does not follow that he is prevented from employing the capital of the cargo, which he has juſt diſpoſed of, in another adventure. During the continuance of public tranquillity trade gets into known and certain channels. The characters of mercantile men, in every part of the world, are duly and accurately eſtimated, and a good bill is as eaſily judged of by a well informed merchant, as a good piece of money. The perſon who has received payment for his

commodities

commodities in this form, applies his bills, or ſuch of them as being within a reaſonable time of payment are deemed negotiable, in the purchaſe of a freſh cargo, with which he again proceeds to market. Thoſe at a longer date are generally called out into capital, by diſcounting; and the amount has again circulated through half the world, long before the bills become due.

To the duration of a ſyſtem of trade of this kind, public tranquillity is however indiſpenſably neceſſary. The ſlighteſt apprehenſions of war affect it in its moſt vital parts, and vibrate through its remoteſt extremities; but when the demon raiſes his iron wand, the whole fabric vaniſhes like the work of enchantment. The enormous but unſubſtantial capital, by which the productions of the world were ſo expeditiouſly tranſferred from region to region, ſinks in a moment to a few hard guineas. A ſlip of paper which was yeſterday worth 1000l. is to-day of no more uſe than it was in its original ſtate. The current which had ſo long flowed on in one uniform and ſteady direction, ſuddenly rolls back, and overwhelms in ruin thoſe who have ventured on its ſurface in the fulleſt confidence of ſafety and ſucceſs.

That ſuch are the inevitable effects of war, we already know by fatal experience; but it may not be uninteresting to examine for a moment the preciſe manner in which a war operates in depreſſing commercial credit. Though purporting to be a mere perſonal ſecurity, a bill of exchange is univerſally received as a ſign of property; and preſuppoſes a degree of ſtability in the drawer of it, adequate to the amount.—Whatever therefore tends to diminiſh the value of property in general, tends to diminiſh the credit of bills of exchange: For although the perſons liable may have been competent to the performance of their engagements under the exiſting circumſtances at the time they entered into them, it is evident they may be rendered unable to fulfil them by the depreciation of their property in conſequence of ſubſequent events.—Hence, in all caſes of public commotion, a general impreſſion is made unfavourable to paper circulation; and this is again increaſed beyond meaſure by obſerving the actual effects produced by a war, not only on every particular branch of commerce, but upon almoſt every different ſpecies of property. For inſtance, the bills drawn in the Weſt Indian iſlands derive their principal credit from the idea that the perſons who iſſue them are poſſeſſed of conſiderable eſtates there; ſo that in caſe it ſhould be neceſſary to call upon them, they will be able to diſcharge the

the amount. But one of the probable consequences of a war is, that these islands may be captured by the enemy. The actual value of these estates is therefore considerably diminished; and the credit of the owner, and consequently that of his circulating bills, sinks in proportion. The situation of the manufacturer is yet more critical; the enormous expence of his buildings and machinery, the astonishing number of workmen employed by him, amounting in some instances to several thousands, the constant payment of duties, and the purchase of raw materials, pour our his property daily, with the rapidity of an immense torrent, which can only be supplied by a perpetual and adequate influx. Of this he is deprived by the war, which closes the market for his commodities, or positively prohibits his sale. From that moment, the very property which he lately considered as his capital and his riches, producing to him a princely revenue, becomes not only unproductive, but an expence and an incumbrance upon his hands.—Even those persons who may be supposed to be the most effectually sheltered from the effects of the calamity, often feelingly partake in its consequences. Estimating his property at the value it bore a few months since, a stock-holder may have entered into positive engagements, which at that time, he conceived himself able to make good, but when he is called upon to fulfil them, he finds that by the fall of the funds he is unexpectedly derived of perhaps a fourth part of his capital; and that at a season when no possible help is to be obtained from any other quarter. The value of every different species of property being thus inevitably reduced, the sign of that property also sinks in the same proportion. But the least diminution of full and perfect confidence, is the total destruction of paper credit—unlike a piece of substantial coin, a bill of exchange is of no value, unless it be negotiable for its full amount, nor is there any medium between the receiving it for the value it purports to bear, and its absolute and final rejection.

(To be continued.)

On Mercy to the Brute Creation.

(Concluded from Page 471.)

IT must be acknowledged a very happy circumstance, that in many cases it is for mens' interest to regard the life of their beasts;

beaſts; as it is in a great meaſure owing to this, that ſo much mercy is ſhown them as they experience—for were it a generally received opinion, that keeping cattle upon ſcanty food, and obliging them to hard and inceſſant labour, would bring more profit to their owners, there is reaſon to fear but little mercy would be ſhown them.—However, that I might ſecond the plea of intereſt, and endeavour to ſecure them merciful treatment where intereſt is not concerned, I will ſuggeſt a few arguments for mercy to brutes, which, I hope, upon conſideration, will not be found deſtitute of ſome degree of weight.

Firſt—we ſhould be merciful to brutes, becauſe they are capable of feeling as well as ourſelves.—Some behave towards thoſe poor creatures that are ſo unfortunate as to fall into their hands, as though they were formed of different materials, and had no ſenſes in common with us; but it would tend very much to ſoften our heart towards them, if we did but recollect that the general conſtruction of their bodies is like our own; that they have nerves as well as ourſelves; that they are, therefore, as ſuſceptible of pain as we are; that life is as precious to them as to us; and, agreeably to the ſentiment of the poet, "the moſt trifling inſect feels a pang as great, as when a giant dies." Now when we are about to inflict unneceſſary puniſhment upon any part of God's creation, let us not only think of what they muſt ſuffer in this caſe, but let us place ourſelves in their ſituation; let us ſuppoſe that the ſame treatment was inflicted upon us.—This will lead us not only to think they feel, but to feel for them.

Secondly—brutes have no law to protect them, and, therefore, they are objects of peculiar compaſſion. Men have been particularly careful of themſelves; they have taken every precaution which wiſdom and prudence could ſuggeſt for their own preſervation; ſo that none can injure another in his reputation or property, much leſs deprive him of his limbs or his life, without incurring the heavieſt penalties. But what legiſlature (excepting indeed the Jewiſh by immediate authority from God) ever eſpouſed the cauſe of brutes? What laws are there exiſting in the Britiſh code to ſecure their good treatment among mankind? Alas! they are not only dumb, and cannot plead their own cauſe, but they are left by the guardians of the land in the moſt forlorn and defenceleſs ſtate. Perſons may treat them with what ſeverity they pleaſe (provided they are their own property) without being called to account by any tribunal. They are, therefore, made the ſport of wanton cruelty; are left ſubject to many hardſhips through unpardon-

able carelessness, and some sacrificed to gratify the eager desires of a greedy avarice. Yea, it is known that the horse, which is one of the noblest and most useful animals we have, is greatly abused, and made the subject of every evil passion, by persons who have no interest to give it better treatment—and, what is still more shocking to the human mind, some persons of a most barbarous turn, have endeavoured to prove, by calculation, that it would be for the interest of the owners to force these poor creatures in the stage-coach service to the utmost exertion of their strength, though by the load of fatigue, and the severity of the lash, they are not permitted to live out half their days. Is there no law for such shameful usage? Is there no advocate for such injured and oppressed beings? There is a law in every man's breast which condemns such conduct; there is an advocate in every heart of benevolence which pleads for the redress of so much misery.

Thirdly—Brutes are entitled to our merciful regards, as they have God for their father, who pities them as well as ourselves. The same great and glorious God that made us, made them; we are all the work of his hands; he is the common father of every living being. And as he made them, so he continually looks down upon them with a fatherly eye; treats them as parts of his family; and is ever showing them acts of kindness and mercy. In his laws, though in no other that I know of, he has laid down particular regulations in some cases for a proper treatment of them. Thus he says—"Thou shall not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.—Thou shall not seethe a kid in his mother's milk;" as it carried with it the idea of something unnatural and barbarous. But the wisest and most important regulation of all was the kind provision he made for the repose of the cattle, every seventh day. But how shamefully is this excellent regulation broken through in modern times! How common is it, after the poor wretches have struggled with hard labour through six days, in violation of the merciful command of Heaven, they are obliged to go through the same toil on the seventh, which was intended as a day of rest not only for man but beast!

But besides the laws which God has made to secure the good treatment of the brute creation he has manifested his regard for them by his own kind behaviour towards them—so wide and extensive is the providential care of the Almighty, that we are told that he not only careth for oxen, but "that not a sparrow falleth to the ground without our Heavenly Father." Since then all creatures are God's creatures, since he con-

ſiders and treats them as his family, it becomes us to behave towards them with humanity, elſe we may be charged with lifting up our heel againſt the Almighty when we only tread on a worm, or cruſh an inſect, if we do it either through wantonneſs or cruelty.

Fourthly—Indulging cruelty towards beaſts hardens the mind, and forms it to habits of cruelty towards our fellow creatures. One of the moſt ferocious of the Roman Emperors was obſerved in his youth to take pleaſure in putting animals to excruciating tortures, and, in particular, catching poor inſects and putting out their eyes; and, it is ſuppoſed, in this ſchool of cruelty he ſtrengthened the barbarous tendency of his nature—rendered his mind callous to ſentiments of tenderneſs and mercy—and at length qualified himſelf for going through, and delighting in all the ſcenes of blood and miſery which he exhibited to the world. And in the ſame manner we may be trained up to habits of inhumanity if we ſuffer the firſt inclinations to cruelty in our natures to be indulged, in treating harſhly brute creatures. Perſons who are chargeable with any great crimes are generally known to have begun with the ſmalleſt inſtance of it, and to have advanced only ſtep by ſtep, but in the end they have proved themſelves capable of the greateſt enormities—and ſo it may be in the preſent caſe; perſons may firſt treat brute animals with barbarity—however by and by they may be induced to treat their brethren of mankind in the ſame manner. All ſavage diverſions, therefore, ſuch as bull baiting, cock fighting, and, in ſhort, every amuſement which is purchaſed at the expence of the peace and happineſs of poor inoffenſive helpleſs animals, ought to be carefully avoided. For though the dominion which is given us over them may empower us to diſpoſe even of their lives, when any valuable end is to be anſwered by it—yet when we ſubject them to bodily pain merely to gratify an arbitrary, tyrannical, or cruel diſpoſition of our own, then ſuch conduct is wrong, becauſe it is not only inflicting unneceſſary torment upon poor dumb creatures, but it is cultivating and ſtrengthening habits of cruelty in our own mind, and thereby preparing us for dealing with mankind in the ſame ſavage and barbarous manner.

Let parents take particular notice of this obſervation, and not only diſcountenance, but prevent, as much as poſſible, all acts of cruelty in their children towards beaſts of every order, Youth are very apt, through mere thoughtleſsneſs, to ſubject to great hardſhips birds, inſects, and animals of other kinds; but nothing of this ſhould be ſuffered in them; they ſhould be told

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the inhumanity of such conduct—motives of compassion should be addressed to them, which may possibly touch their soft tender hearts; they should be strictly forbidden every act of cruelty; and if they persist, they should be made to feel the dreadful nature of cruelty, by being treated with some considerable severity themselves. Parents in general do not attend to these things as they ought; provided their children can derive amusement, they care very little how much the objects of their diversion suffer from it. But if we have any regard for our children, and wish them to behave well in future life, we ought diligently to cultivate in them a mild, tender, humane, merciful disposition.

Fifthly—A merciful conduct towards brutes will give us a part in the happiness of that vast multitude of beings, and fill our bosoms with a serene, tranquil, and exalted pleasure. Solomon very justly observes, that the "merciful man doth good to his own soul;" for by feeling for all that live, he enlarges his heart; multiplies without end the source of his pleasures—and centers in himself the happiness which is extended to the utmost bounds of Creation.

The man whose bosom is the habitation of all the mild, the gentle, and tender dispositions of the mind, has a fountain of joy opened within him; becomes a partaker of every blessing which is strewed around him by whomsoever enjoyed; and wherever he goes he beholds the creatures of God—beholds those in whose welfare he is interested, and by whose prosperity he is rendered chearful and happy.

Lastly—By treating with mercy those things that are below us and in our power, we resemble the Deity.

To be like God is the highest glory of our natures. Now, in what manner does God treat us who are placed at an infinite distance from him? Yea, how does he treat those that are vastly our inferiors, the numerous tribes of creatures that have no understanding to know him, and no tongues to praise him? He looks round with a fatherly eye on every branch (even the lowest) of his vast family. "He hears the young ravens when they cry;" and he pities the distresses of every living being; "the eyes of all are up unto him, and he gives them their food in due season." Shall we then, in opposition to God, scatter misery upon his creation? Is it not more becoming us to condescend to pay attention to the affairs of the beings below us—to interest ourselves in their welfare—to avoid every thing which would give them unnecessary pain—and gladly embrace every opportunity of preserving them from

impending

impending danger—of removing from them any preſent evils—or of adding, in any reſpect, to their comfort and happineſs.—All who are thus employed; all who thus endeavour to alleviate ſorrow, and extend felicity, reſemble God, reſemble him in the moſt lovely part of his character; an argument, ſurely, which muſt induce the mind to cultivate every principle of tenderneſs and humanity.

Advice to the Proprietors of Canals, &c. tending to ſave the Lives of thoſe, who are employed thereon, or Others who may be Drowned therein.

THE preſervation of the lives of mankind againſt every danger, which may occaſion the premature diſſolution of the ſame, is a duty incumbent on all men; it is a duty which all muſt be eager to perform, whenever appriſed of the means.—Dr. Hawes therefore preſumes, he needs not apologiſe, when he takes the liberty of ſuggeſting to the proprietors of the ſeveral canals, and navigable cuts already made, and now propoſed to be made through different parts of the kingdom, the wiſdom and humanity of erecting receiving houſes, or places for the reception of the drowned, at convenient diſtances, on ſuch cuts or canals.

It is evident that the great increaſe of theſe, neceſſary indeed to the facilitation of conveyance, and to the extenſion of commerce, muſt tend to multiply the caſualties ariſing from drowning, in a very conſiderable degree. The prevention of the termination of ſuch accidents, can only be effectuated by the erection of ſuch receptacles, furniſhed with drags, and all the apparatus neceſſary for employing the reſuſcitative proceſs.

The adoption of this meaſure is ſo powerfully recommended by all the concurring motives of philanthropy, utility, and policy, that the Doctor deems it unneceſſary to preſs it more cloſely, to the conviction of the enlightened and reſpectable body of men, he is now addreſſing; he ſhall only obſerve, that having ſo happily by his indefatigable labours, excited a conſiderable ſhare of attention to the important ſubject of preſerving and guarding human life, againſt the dreadful cataſtrophe of premature death, from whatever cauſe it may proceed,—he deems it an office peculiarly impoſed on him to admoniſh all ranks of men of every precautionary meaſure that

can be adopted to check the ravages of ſudden death.—" *Ita ſemper officio fungetur, utilitati conſulens hominum.*"—CIC. *de Off.*

Whether, in every act of Parliament, which ſhall be paſſed for the forming of canals or navigable cuts, it would not be wiſe to inſert a clauſe compulſory on the proprietors to erect ſuch receptacles—the writer ſubmits to the conſideration of thoſe patriotic Lords and Gentlemen, who may be concerned in improving the country by facilitating the intercourſe between the moſt diſtant parts of the kingdom.

W. HAWES.

Spital-Square, May 5, 1793.

To the PRINTER.

SIR,

AS a ſupplement to the excellent eſſay on patriotiſm, printed in your Entertainer of the 8th and 15th inſtant, I intreat your adding an admirable prayer, from the Sacred Exerciſes, compiled for the uſe of places of public education, particularly Weſtminſter ſchool, which has gone through ſeveral editions, and is well worthy of admiſſion into all ſeminaries and families. It conſiſts of leſſons on the moſt important ſubjects, taken from the Scriptures, and prayers ſuitable to each; breathing the true ſpirit of devotion, and calculated to inſpire young minds with ſentiments, the cultivating which cannot fail of promoting their happineſs, in time and eternity. The prayer annexed follows a leſſon containing our Bleſſed Lord's account of the deſtruction of Jeruſalem, and his affecting lamentation when he wept over it.

This book being publiſhed many years ſince, cannot poſſibly refer to any preſent tranſactions. It is the hard lot of thoſe who lament the bloody war in which ſo large a part of Europe is now involved, to be deemed unfriendly to the intereſts of their country, and perſons whoſe ideas concur with what is obſerved in the firſt paragraph of the State of Politics, contained in your Entertainer of the 15th, are, by numbers, thought ſeditious. "But wiſdom will be juſtified of her children."—The men who believe it to be their duty, to promote, as much as lies in their power, the temper and ſpirit of the Goſpel, will enjoy the approbation of their own conſciences, and that peace which the world can neither give nor take away; and if diſſenters can join, with warmth and ardour, in that excellent petition

tition of the public liturgy—" That it may please thee to forgive all our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts.

J. C.

Colyton, April 22, 1793.

AN ADMIRABLE PRAYER.

O GOD, by whose providence our Lord Jesus Christ, in thus lamenting the approaching ruin of Jerusalem, gave a noble proof of his ardent concern and love for his country, endue us we beseech thee, in like manner with an hearty affection for the nation to which we belong, and a strong industrious zeal for its real welfare. And may this love of our country be generous and disinterested: Let us, imitating the great spirit of the same blessed Jesus, love it equally, whether we are enriched with possessions in it, or only share its common protection, and its laws: Whether we are honoured and encouraged in it, or share his fate, who (for all his benefits) met with nothing from his countrymen but the greatest neglect and contempt, envy and ingratitude. But grant, O Lord, above all, that we may learn, that, how much soever we love our country, yet we are never to wish any thing for its advantage, which would be injurious or oppressive to other nations, who are all equally thy children and our brethren: Imitating in this also our blessed Saviour, who, though continually employed in endeavouring to prevent the ruin of his country, and to make it happy by the surest means, the reforming its corruptions and vices; yet never once exerted his power in conferring on it any thing of (what the Jews then so much desired) sovereignty and empire over other nations. Grant to us always this wisdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Some Account of that eccentric Character, the late Earl of Barrymore.

(Continued from Page 489.*)*

TO promote and expedite with indefatigable industry, a plan of so much eagerness and impatient expectation, artists of every description were engaged; to these the constant influx

influx of dramatic directors, carvers, gilders, painters, harliquinic projectors, pantomimic buffoons, and the long train of subordinates employed upon the premises, gave to Wargrave then, more the appearance of a metropolis in miniature, than what it now, being "itself again," proves to be, a truly remote and rusticated village.

In strict conformity with the inconsistency of the whole, the most incessant preparations were going on for public representation, without respect to decency, morality or religion. The common order of things was totally perverted, and rehearsals practised by night in preference to day; beginning invariably at nine or ten in the evening, and (with the intervening refreshments of every delicacy the world could afford, at one or two) generally concluded about four or five in the morning. But, exclusive of these inferior trainings, the more grand and correct rehearsals were always held on a Sunday evening; when those great criterions of precision, the constellations of a London Theatre (emancipated from the trammels of a manager, his prompter, and call boy) were on that night free from every possibility of personal appearance in the metropolis, consequently enabled to obey the injunction of his Lordship, and to attend a religious rehearsal of inebriation.

In strict pursuit of this prevailing object, his Lordship became almost sequestered from public appearance, (his immense retinue, magnificent equipage, and training stud at Wargrave, Twyford, and Newmarket continuing not only undiminished, but almost unused) till the happy, the exulting moment arrived, when he could emerge from temporary obscurity with renovated splendor. Under the influence of this dramatic furor, his Lordship's complimentary tickets of admission were liberally distributed to all the families of fashion and eminence in the surrounding neighbourhood. Not only plays, operas, and pantomimes were repeatedly performed to crouded houses, but masquerades introduced with every species of expensive and luxurious dissipation; where 1000l. and upwards has been annihilated upon the entertainment of a single evening. It must be acknowledged that some of the most distinguished families in the county received his invitations as a mark of his politeness, and honoured the earliest performances with their presence; but it must be also candidly confessed the event seemed to produce much less of mirth or mental enjoyment, than of the disquietude that ever pervades the mind of sensibility, when inadvertently seduced to participate in the involuntary precipitation of another's ruin.

Reflections and their effects, so palpably perceptible in the superior and more polished part of the company, soon furnished a change in the appearance of the audience; tickets of admission became "cheap as dicer's oaths," and were handed without reserve from one class of mechanics to another, till fully satiate with what was no longer a novelty, this seat of theatrical grandeur,

"The cloud capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,"

all glided into oblivion, and like the "baseless fabric of a vision left not a wreck behind."

So truly applicable is this allusion to the annihilation of dramatic grandeur and total dissolution of the whole arrangement, that we cannot without concern and the most solemn reflection look to the very spot, where sums exceeding all rational comprehension, all common credulity, (to the amount of 40 or 50,000l.) have been most degradingly lavished in every scene of riot, debauchery and extravagance; without the consolatory remembrance, that in any one instance, during the whole delusion, virtue was solicited, integrity courted, or the misery of want relieved. His Lordship having in the constant association with Hooper accurately attended to the theory of pugilism, it became occasionally necessary to exert some degree of practice as a specimen of improvement; and instances have not been wanting of the striking impressions he has made, more countenances than one having often borne a sable complection, after those nocturnal lucubrations, or rehearsals of morality we have already explained. Nay his Lordship had attained to so great a degree of perfection in this art, that but a very few months before his untimely dissolution, he condescendingly conferred the honour of a darter upon his most constant associate; constituting a black eye of no mean appearance, as a most distinguishing and indisputable mark of his Lordship's inviolable friendship.

Perfectly abstracted from all those refined sensations, those brilliant gratifications that are an ornament to human nature, he felt as little for the necessary exaltation of his mind, as for the dignity of his character. Imperfectly read in the book of experience, and a total stranger to the page of reflection, he had not discovered that "those only are truly noble who are truly great," and from an entire want of that salutary conviction, he suffered himself to sink beneath the laudable spirit of emulation; shunning, for the most part, every association

or circle of gaiety and fashion, (where politeness supersedes the gratification of licentious propensity) he consciously abdicated the advantages evidently resulting from virtuous society, and prostituted his person, his passions, and his character, in direct subservience to the impressive impulse of theatrical infatuation. To adopt the technical phraseology of that fraternity, having "rubbed his skirts against the side-wings," or "been bit by a mad actor," he became so severely infected with the deceptive glee, the affected mirth, the superficial wit, the interested politesse, the political attachment, the general levity, the characteristic indigence, and attracting *tout ensemble* of a green room, that he fell an inviolable devotee to such a combination of splendid perfections, and instantly subscribed to all the existing vices for which its members are so eminently and so justly distinguished.

Thus totally insensible to those nobler passions that exhilarate the mind and stimulate the heart to acts of virtue, fame, and honour, he gave an unrestrained loose to all the pernicious effects and persuasive prevalence of vicious example; plunging largely into every degrading scene of nocturnal delusion, he indulged in the cruel gratification of his own feelings, by the humiliating mortification of others; humbugging the landlord, roasting the waiter, or drilling the ostler, over a pot of porter and a Welch rabbit in a festive scene of equality with his favourite sons of Thalia, constituted to him a seat of greater honour and conviviality, than a chair at the splendid board of one of the first personages in the kingdom. Far be it from the present intent to pervert the fact, or mislead the judgement; it is the invariable purport of these pages to be the correct and "faithful chroniclers of the time," to

"Nothing extenuate,
"Nor set down aught in malice."

It is universally known, and too notorious to be denied (nor was it meant to be omitted) that the experiment was made, the opportunity offered; that he was absolutely honoured with such condescension, and sanctioned with even a princely patronage. That he was received with his hounds and sporting retinue at Brighton upon the most affable and friendly terms: and that a visit of distinguished honour upon a particular occasion*, was made to Wargrave, where the royal visitant was entertained with every degree of magnificence, the time, the place,

* A magnificent masquerade upon his coming of age.

place, the ſeaſon, and every profuſion that art and nature could render ſubſervient to the favour intended and the honour conferred.

(To be continued.)

ON WAGERS.

(Concluded from Page 494.)

APRIL 20. A porter walked from the conduit in Cheapſide, to Highgate, for a wager of 5l. and a leg of mutton and caper ſauce: He was allowed an hour, but performed it in 56 minutes.

April 25. On Tueſday a young gentleman walked 50 miles for a wager. He was to walk, and walk only, from Holborn-bars to the 25 mile-ſtone at Redbourn, and back again in 12 hours; which he performed in leſs than the time limited, with eaſe.

May 30. A perſon walked ſix times from Oxford market to Putney, and back again, (computed about 63 miles) in 11 hours and 46 minutes, for a wager of 30 guineas, which was 15 minutes leſs than allowed him to do it in.

June 13. A young man, for a wager of 40 guineas, undertook to hop 68 yards in the Artillery Ground in 20 hops, which he performed with great agility, to the admiration of the numerous ſpectators, having no more than 12 inches left for the laſt hop.

December 6. A foot match was run on Moulſey-hurſt, by a ſhepherd, againſt time. He was to run 15 miles in an hour and half, and performed it an hour and 28 minutes.

May, 1764. At a foot-race, on the Deptford road, by two tanners, the winner run nine miles in an hour and four minutes.

April 26, 1765. A lad of 15 years old, apprentice to a carman in Whitechapel, eat, at a public-houſe, for a wager of two guineas, ſeven pounds of beef-ſteaks, all ſolid meat, a quartern loaf, and drank two quarts of porter. He had two hours allowed him to finiſh this, his ſupper, but devoured the whole in leſs than an hour and a half.

June 26. Two mowers near Wells, in Somerſetſhire, cut down four acres of graſs, in an hour and 17 minutes for a wager of 20l. which they won by performing it only one minute within the time; two to one againſt them.

June 28. Was determined a wager between two noblemen, for 1000 guineas, that a boat ſhould go 25 miles in an hour. For this purpoſe, a large circular trench, of 100 feet diameter, and nine feet wide, was dug in a field behind Jenny's Whim, near Chelſea-bridge; and in the centre of the land ſurrounded by this trench was fixed a poſt, with a radius extending to the middle of the canal, ſo that the boat being tied to the moveable end of the radius might be moved, with great velocity, by a very ſlow motion in a horſe faſtened to ſome point of the radius between the boat and the centre. The wager was, however, loſt, by part of the tackling giving way, though the trial had ſucceeded perfectly well the day before.

July 10. A lad, about 17 years old, apprentice to Mr. Maxwell, a waterman on the Bank-ſide, Southwark, eat a ſhoulder of lamb, that weighed upwards of 5lb. and two quarts of green peas, without either bread or beer, in leſs than 50 minutes, for a wager of half-a-guinea.

July 10. A young woman, near Cockermouth, walked 72 miles in one day, viz. from Blencoge to within two miles of Newcaſtle.

Auguſt 17. Mr. Mullins, a watch-caſe-maker, in Shoreditch, near 50 years old, walked, without ſhoes or ſtockings, from Shoreditch church to St. George's church, in the Borough, and back again, being about four miles, for a wager of ſix guineas, in the ſpace of 46 minutes and a half, having had 50 allowed him.

September 30. Thomas Scot, a peruke-maker of York, rode his own horſe from that city to London, in 32 hours and 40 minutes, being 192 miles.

November 15. Walter Willey, a brewer's ſervant, devoured, at a public-houſe, in Alderſgate-ſtreet, a roaſted gooſe, that weighed 6lb. and a quartern loaf, and drank three quarts of porter, in an hour and 18 minutes, for a wager of two guineas. He had an hour and a half allowed him to do it in.

About the ſame time, a mare ſtarted from the Fox and Hounds, in Tottenham-court-road, to draw a ſingle horſe-chaiſe, with a perſon in it, to Lincoln, in 20 hours, but performed the journey with eaſe, in 19 hours and a quarter. The diſtance is upwards of 130 miles.

May 14, 1766. George Noble, nineteen years old, apprentice to a gardener, walked, for a wager of three guineas, from the ſeven mile-ſtone, at the upper end of Wandſworth, with a baſket of 300 aſparagus on his head, to the Borough-market,

market, Southwark, which is upward of ſix miles, in 58 minutes. He had an hour to do it.

May 19. A young man, 10 years of age, apprentice to Mr. Turner, watch-maker in Alderſgate-ſtreet, eat a leg of pork of ſix pounds, and a peaſe pudding, weighing in proportion, at a public-houſe, in Iſlington, for a trifling wager, in leſs than three quarters of an hour; after which he drank a pint of brandy at two draughts, and went away ſeemingly in perfect health.

July 10. One Dobſon, a lighter-man, undertook, for a wager of five guineas, to ſwim on his back from Weſtminſter-bridge to Putney-bridge, in an hour and three quarters, without turning himſelf in the water; which he performed in 19 minutes within the time.

July 14. A match at cricket was played on Blackheath, between 11 Greenwich penſioners, who had each loſt an arm, and 11 others, who had loſt each a leg, which afforded much ſport to a great number of ſpectators, and was won with eaſe by the former.

* * * * * * * *

I am convinced that the rage for laying or accepting wagers, has nothing manly or uſeful in it. I am convinced that this practice has been generally confined to perſons of very weak minds, or to thoſe of avaricious tempers, or, in other words, the gambling rich, and the vulgar poor. The former encourage extraordinary feats of riding; the latter, not able to ſupport the inſtruments of ſuch wagers, viz. horſes, content themſelves with walking, eating, or drinking in an extraordinary manner.

Anſwer, by W. Watts, to Matthew Roberts's Queſtion, inſerted December 17.

PUT $x =$ the piece left, and 2.5 yards $- x =$ the piece cut off; now as 5 quarters $: x ::$ 3.25 quarters $: \frac{5x}{3.25}$ inverſely, and $19 x \times \frac{10x}{3.25} = 47{,}5 \therefore x = 2.151568 =$ the piece of cloth left, and 2, 5 yards $-$ 2,151568 $=$ 1 quarter, 1 nail, 574912 $=$ the piece cut off. Then $\frac{5x}{3.25} =$ 3 yards, 1 quarter, 961664 $=$ the quantity of ſhalloon.

Anſwer,

Anſwer, by Fidelio, of Bath, to J. K. C.'s Charade, inſerted March 4.

WHILST on this earthly globe I ſtay,
May Providence my footſteps guide!
That I may walk in virtue's way
So near to happineſs allied;
That when the awful hour draws nigh,
That I muſt yield my vital breath,
Acquitted by my CONSCIENCE, I
May calmly wait the hand of death.

*** We have received the like anſwer from W. Hoare, of Dean Prior; Curioſus, of Bath; and a young farmer of St. Stephen's in Brannel.

Anſwer, by R. S. of Aveton Gifford, to J. Bulgin's Anagram, inſerted March 4.

WYE is a town in Kent I know,
When tranſpos'd *Wey* it will ſhow;
And when tranſpos'd again you'll ſee,
That *Yew*'s a well-known Engliſh tree;
Change *Y* for *E*, tranſpoſe again,
An *Ewe*'s the female you'll obtain.

†‖† We have received the like anſwer from Stephen Phillips, of Mr. Tucker's ſchool at Penryn; J. Traer, and E. Giddy, of Truro; S. M. of Ottery; T. Walker, Hemyock; J. Commins, Taviſtock; W. Brewer, Taunton; T. K. of Gulval; Fidelio, and Curioſus, of Bath; and I. Caſe, and W. Squire, of Mr. Tucker's ſchool at Broadwinſor.

Anſwer, by Juvenis, of Milverton, to R. Tucker's Rebus, inſerted March 11.

TH' initials I have found, and join'd them true,
Brighthelmſtone is the town I've brought in view.

§†§ We have received the like anſwer from W. Bawden, and Eremita, Weſton Zoyland; A. Pinn, Exmouth; Thomas Welch, near Wiveliſcombe; T. Walker, Hemyock; S. Phillips, of Mr. Tucker's ſchool, Penryn; S. Hill, Dawliſh; S. T. Gundry, of Penzance; Furze Stub, Long Moor; W. Brewer, Taunton; and R. Scribbler, of Aveton Gifford.

An

An ANAGRAM, *by Quietus, of Hayne.*

AN inſect if inverted true,
A letter add, one more to view;
Change it again, eraſe that letter,
Denotes what makes ox-hides wear better.

A CHARADE, *by Curioſus, of Bath.*

WHEN youthful follies bear the ſway
O'er reaſon's kindled fire,
My firſt, alas! e'er aims to gain
The object of deſire.

But when in pureſt love the heart
Admits the gentle flame,
My ſecond, to confirm the prize
Will freely give its name.

Now, ſkilful bards, releaſe this doubt
Inclos'd in myſtic ſeal,
A kind of ſilk my whole pronounce,
And caſt aſide the veil.

A REBUS, *by Robert Scribbler, of Aveton Gifford, in the County of Devon.*

A Part of time you'll firſt diſplay;
And next a grain without delay;
A ſort of fruit you next muſt find;
And next an inſect call to mind;
A ſimple and a mere reply;
A man of learning next deſcry;
A near relation next unfold;
A famous prophet muſt be told;
A liquid meaſure next expound;
A tree that's green muſt next be found;
And laſt a Suffolk borough town.
Join the initials right and true,
A deciduous ſhrub you'll bring to view.

P O E T R Y.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ODE TO SPRING.

WRITTEN IN THE COUNTRY.

AWAKE, my ſoul! and with the blooming ſpring
Thy grateful tributary incenſe bring:
Shake off the wintry miſts, and plume thy wing,
Like the ſweet lark, and, as thou mounteſt, ſing!

Welcome, dear views, from this enchanting ſpot,
Tho' erſt neglected, never quite forgot:
Ah! with what bounding joy from crowds I flee,
To prune my flow'rs and renovate with thee!
So ſome fond mother to her nurſery flies,
And caſts around her ſoft maternal eyes,
Views with delight her playful ſprightly race,
And hangs enraptur'd o'er each blooming face;
Marks their quick growth, and, with a foſtering hand,
Supports or prunes her little docile band;
With balmy kiſs their circling arms ſhe meets,
Like vernal gales, ſhe ſteals and renders ſweets.
But ſhould her little ſuckling droop among
The joyous, buſy, active, blooming throng,
Ah! how concentred then are all her cares!
To him ſhe turns—for him alone ſhe fears;
For him, enanguiſhed, braves the midnight hour,
And in her boſom ſoothes her fading flower.
How ſoft, how beauteous beams her eye to view,
The gliſtening blue-bell, bent with pearly dew:
Trembling 'midſt ſanguine hopes and anxious fears,
Like April's ſun ſhe ſmiles on him—thro' tears!
Hail, roſeate ſeaſon! ſweetly ſmiling hours,
Playful as ſportive infants, ſtrewing flowers;
Blitheſome as Hope reviv'd, and young as gay,
And fair as young, ſoft daiſy-footed May.

Hall,

Hail, hour of prime! for thou art faireſt, beſt—
Ingenuous Nature—by the Almighty dreſt!

Oh thou ſupreme! who ſpread'ſt this beauteus blaze,
To ſtrike the ſenſe, and charm th' aſtoniſh'd gaze!
Who pour'ſt this ſoft profuſion on our ſight,
To woo the mind to ſcenes of calm delight!
Who gav'ſt this fair variety for food,
And whilſt thou gav'ſt it, who pronounc'd it good!

Oh Thou, who deign'ſt this wondrous good to me,
And gave mine ear to hear, mine eye to ſee;
Illum'd my reaſon with a ray divine,
And ſtrung my feelings exquiſitely fine!
Oh give, whilſt health reanimates my cheek,
And theſe delightſome ſcenes I fondly ſeek—
Give me to ſee, to own, to praiſe thy power,
Seen in the ſtorm, or bloſs'ming in the flower—
Lead to the ſource of all this wond'rous plan,
Thou Great Firſt Cauſe—leaſt underſtood by man!

So when my ſummer ſun of life is o'er,
And theſe lov'd ſcenes ſhall ceaſe to charm me more;
When age, or pain, or death ſhall intervene,
To pall theſe joys, and cloſe this beauteous ſcene—
May fairer worlds ſuperior proſpects bring,
Unfading foliage—univerſal ſpring!
May my exulting ſpirit joyful riſe
From Earth to Heaven, and mount beyond the ſkies!

ELIZA.

May 12, 1793.

Lines ſuppoſed to be written by the late celebrated and ingenious Mr. Sterne, on his reviſiting, at an advanced Period of his Life, the Houſe of a Gentleman to whoſe Daughter, in his early Days, he had paid his Addreſſes.

OH Caroline, thy form recalls
(As do thy honour'd father's walls,
Thy matron-mother's look ſerene,
And all this lov'd, enchanting ſcene)
Thoſe happy days—too ſweet to laſt—
From me, alas! for ever paſt.

When my young heart, then gay and free,
Its early homage paid to thee;
On thee its firſt regards beſtow'd,
And firſt with pure affection glow'd.
Ah! happy days of early youth,
All peace, all innocence, and truth;
Swift flew the blythſome hours away,
Unvex'd by cares ſerene and gay.

Ah me! full many a pang has preſs'd,
Since thoſe dear days this anxious breaſt;
Full many a ſcene of varied life,
Diſtreſs, misfortune, pain, and ſtrife,
Has caus'd this throbbing breaſt to pine,
Which once I little thought were mine!

When after all this toil and pain,
Theſe lovely ſcenes I view again,
By fond remembrance ſore diſtreſs'd,
Grief fills my eye, and ſwells my breaſt;
And bids me think, when theſe I view,
What I have loſt by loſing you!

Yet let me ſtill by ſome kind name
A place in your affection claim:
Call me a friend, or what you will,
But be my place exalted ſtill.
Remember I was once the youth
Who, in paſt days of joy and truth,
Firſt offer'd incenſe at your ſhrine,
And fondly hop'd to call you mine!

1755. L. S.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

From the CHINESE.

GAY child of Spring, the garden's queen,
Yon peach-tree charms the roving ſight;
Its fragrant leaves, how richly green!
Its bloſſoms how divinely bright!

So ſoftly ſmiles the blooming bride,
By love and conſcious virtue led
O'er her new manſion to preſide,
And placid joys around her ſpread.